

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BERLIN 03176 01 OF 02 081259Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 STR-07 CA-01
CPR-01 HA-05 OES-07 USPS-01 EB-08 /081 W
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O 081243Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7332
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USDOC WASHDC
USICA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BERLIN 03176

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRICALLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, PGOV, US, GE
SUBJECT: HIGH-LEVEL GDR VISITORS TO US: DEPUTY FOREIGN
- TRADE MINISTER BEIL

REF: A. BERLIN 3047, B. BERLIN 2628, C. STATE 114732,
- D. STATE 115177.

1. I MET WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER BEIL JUST
BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE MORNING OF MAY 8 FOR DISCUSSIONS IN
WASHINGTON AND TO LEAD THE US-GDR TECHNICAL DAYS TO NEW
YORK, CHICAGO AND LOS ANGELES.

2. I EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT BEIL'S TRIP TO THE US WAS
VERY TIMELY AND THAT US-GDR RELATIONS HAD BEEN DEVELOP-
ING IN A FAVORABLE MANNER, ESPECIALLY IN THE TRADE AND
CULTURAL FIELDS. THESE DEVELOPMENTS HAD SERVED OUR MUTUAL
INTERESTS AND CONTRIBUTED TO IMPROVING COMMON UNDER-
STANDING AND COOPERATION.

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PAGE 02 BERLIN 03176 01 OF 02 081259Z

3. I NOTED THAT THE COMING WEEKS OFFERED AN OPPORTUNITY
TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS IN IMPROVING THE ATMOSPHERE FOR
THE CONDUCT OF BILATERAL COOPERATION. I NOTED THAT BEIL'S
VISIT PRECEDED THAT OF FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER FOR DIS-
CUSSION WITH SECRETARY VANCE IN EARLY JUNE, THE VISIT OF
CULTURE MINISTER HOFFMANN FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH SEVERAL

POLICY-LEVEL OFFICIALS, AND THE OPENING OF THE DRESDEN ART EXHIBIT, WHICH WOULD FOCUS THE ATTENTION OF MANY AMERICANS ON THE GDR.

4. I NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THE EXPANSION OF TRADE AND BUSINESS CONTACTS. I TOLD BEIL THERE WERE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE US MARKET IN THE ABSENCE OF MFN, BUT MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON ACTIONS WHICH WOULD ENHANCE THE GDR IMAGE AND LEAD TO IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE AND PUBLIC SUPPORT OF TRADE WITH THE GDR. I CALLED BEIL'S ATTENTION TO A NUMBER OF POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL ISSUES WHICH HAVE IMPEDED PROGRESS TOWARD NORMALIZATION AND REMAINED UNRESOLVED. I TOLD HIM WE CONTINUED TO ENCOURAGE ACTIONS AND INITIATIVES BY THE GDR WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS.

5. I REVIEWED A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC ISSUES WITH BEIL. I SAID WE WERE PUZZLED OVER THE LACK OF PROGRESS ON THE CONSULAR CONVENTION, WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT AS A BASIS FOR FURTHER PROGRESS IN OTHER AREAS. US-GDR EXPERTS HAD RECENTLY MET FOR PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS ON LAWS AND PROCEDURES PERTAINING TO PROPERTY AND FINANCIAL CLAIMS. WE HAD SUGGESTED SEVERAL WAYS IN WHICH COOPERATION COULD BE ENHANCED. WE HOPED THAT THE GDR OFFICIALS WOULD EXAMINE THESE PROPOSALS AND GIVE US A DATE FOR FURTHER FOLLOW-UP CONSULTATIONS WHICH ARE NEEDED. I SAID SEVERAL CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BERLIN 03176 01 OF 02 081259Z

CONTACTS HAD TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN THE JEWISH MATERIAL CLAIMS CONFERENCE AND THE ANTI-FASCIST COMMITTEE. CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES HAD MADE SOME PROPOSALS TO THE GDR FOR REASONABLE COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES BY VICTIMS OF NAZISM. I ALERTED BEIL TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOME CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES MAY WISH TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH HIM DURING HIS VISIT.

6. I SAID WE WERE GRATIFIED THAT SEVERAL CASES INVOLVING DIVIDED FAMILIES HAD BEEN SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED. THERE WERE STILL A HANDFULL OF HUMANITARIAN CASES INVOLVING US CITIZENS AND THEIR GDR RELATIVES. I SAID THE RESOLUTION OF THESE CASES DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS WAS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE ACTS THE GDR COULD TAKE TO IMPROVE THE CLIMATE FOR ADVANCEMENT OF OUR RELATIONS. SUCH ACTIONS WOULD HAVE A VERY POSITIVE IMPACT, ESPECIALLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DRESDEN ART EXHIBIT.

7. I TOLD BEIL THAT A NUMBER OF PAINTINGS BY THE FAMOUS ARTIST LYONEL FEININGER ARE IN THE GDR. A GDR COURT HAD RULED THAT THESE PAINTINGS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE FEININGER HEIRS IN THE UNITED STATES; THESE PAINTINGS

HAVE MORE THAN MONETARY VALUE--THEY WERE OF GREAT SENTIMENTAL VALUE AND WE HOPED THAT THE PAINTINGS WOULD BE PROMPTLY RETURNED. I NOTED THAT I HAD DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GRUNERT AND THAT RALPH COLLINS, EXECUTOR OF THE FEININGER ESTATE, HAD BEEN SEEKING AN APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH BEIL DURING HIS STOP IN NEW YORK.

8. I ALSO BRIEFED BEIL ON THE STATUS OF THE AGREEMENT ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE PARCEL POST AGREEMENT. I NOTED THAT THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT HAD SUBMITTED A NEW DRAFT AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ABSENCE OF THE REFERENCE TO THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. I SAID THE NEW DRAFT IS THE SAME AS

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 03176 02 OF 02 081302Z
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7333
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BERLIN 03176

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY

THE US-ROMANIAN DRAFT AND REPRESENTED A NEW STANDARD U.S. POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT FORMAT AND THAT TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS OF THIS KIND WERE NO PLACE TO RAISE POLITICAL ISSUES. WE WERE PREPARED TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT THAT WAS NOW ON THE TABLE.

9. BEIL AGREED THAT US-GDR RELATIONS HAD BEEN DEVELOPING IN A FAVORABLE MANNER, THAT IMPORTANT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE, ESPECIALLY IN THE CULTURAL AND TRADE FIELDS. HE SEEMED TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF HIS TRIP AS A FACTOR IN ENHANCING THE GDR IMAGE, CREATING A BETTER CLIMATE AND PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION. BEIL

INFORMED ME ABOUT A NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS WITH MEMBER COMPANIES OF THE US-GDR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCILS, INCLUDING PRESIDENTS OF CHASE MANHATTAN, DOW CHEMICAL, UNION OIL, AMERICAN METALS CLIMAX, RCA, PHILIPS, UNION CARBIDE, COCA-COLA AND OTHERS. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW BEIL'S SCHEDULE FOR TALKS IN WASHINGTON. HE SPECIFICALLY CONFIRMED ALL APPOINTMENTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BERLIN 03176 02 OF 02 081302Z

INCLUDING A MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY PATRICIA DERIAN TO DISCUSS MFN AND HUMAN RIGHTS. BEIL HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY HEARD ABOUT THE APPOINTMENT WITH ASST. SECRETARY DERIAN, BUT HE WAS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD DISCUSSING MFN AND HUMAN RIGHTS. I URGED HIM TO DO SO. BOLEN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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